**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  
**TWO HUNDREDTH AND TWENTY EIGHTH COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE**  
**ALEXANDER MEMORIAL COLISEUM**

**August 4, 2007, 9:00 A.M.**

(Faculty and President’s Party will assemble at 8:00 a.m. in the Hyder Room, second level of the Coliseum).

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**Presentation of Undergraduate Degree Candidates**
College of Computing
Assistant Dean Michael McCracken

Ivan Allen College
Associate Dean Peter McGuire

College of Architecture
Interim Dean Douglas C. Allen

College of Management
Senior Associate Dean
Sridhar Narasimhan

College of Sciences
Dean Paul Houston

College of Engineering
Associate Dean Raymond P. Vito

Conferring of Degrees
Dr. Clough

Induction into Alumni Association
C. Meade Sutterfield, Class of 1972
Chair, Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Alma Mater
Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

Faculty Recessional
Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble

"Ramblin' Wreck"
Graduates and Audience
August 4, 2007 - Ceremony Script (UNDERGRADUATE)

(Dr. Clough)
Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Will everyone please stand for the reflection by Rev. Megan Jones, from the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Georgia Tech, and remain standing for our national anthem.

(Rev. Megan Jones) Reflection

(Commencement Ensemble) National Anthem

(Dr. Clough)
Please be seated. Once again, good morning. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to Georgia Tech’s two-hundred twenty eighth commencement exercises. Today we are recognizing 800 graduates. Fortunately, you will not have to sit through the whole thing. We are conferring undergraduate degrees this morning, and will hold a separate ceremony at 3:00 p.m. to award about graduate degrees. Even so, this ceremony will take some time, so get comfortable. But there is nothing quite like the pageantry and ceremony of commencement, and it is one of my favorite activities as president.

All of these talented young people have received a technology-oriented education that is increasingly valuable and rare among the thousands of graduates from our nation’s universities. Each of them will be a key resource in helping our nation remain great for the future.

As you know from news reports, our nation is at risk of falling behind in the global economic competition, because too few of our young people are choosing to study fields like engineering and science. But each of the graduates before us today has chosen the less traveled path, one that called for them to work hard, learn about the latest developments in
fields like engineering, science, public policy, and management, and compete with some of the best and brightest our nation has to offer. I know you join me in the special pride I feel in being among them on this day.

The world around us is changing rapidly, and these young graduates have been educated in what is required to address the challenges and solve the problems of the 21st century. This assessment is based not only on their talents and academic achievements, but also on the quality of our faculty and the strength of our academic programs. Georgia Tech is known for its academic rigor, and is regularly ranked among the nation’s top 10 public universities. Our library recently won the 2007 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, and we were honored with the Paul Simon Award in recognition of our growing international focus. Not to be outdone, our women’s tennis team recently won both the indoor and the NCAA national tennis championships.

Our students have also demonstrated their ability to make a difference in the world today. Hurricane Katrina may be a fading memory for some, but hundreds of Georgia Tech students continue to offer assistance in the hardest-hit areas of New Orleans. And when the Southeastern Interfraternity Council recognized Georgia Tech’s Greek system with eight awards – far more than any other university – three of them were for community service and community relations. Tech students have also lent a hand abroad, traveling to Angola to work on water problems, and designing a solar latrine for Bolivia that can be built from local materials.

I also have great confidence in the future of these young graduates because of the track record of the Tech alumni who preceded them. Just look around at the billion-dollar companies whose CEOs are Georgia Tech alumni – Wal-Mart International, Invesco, Gulfstream Aerospace, Dollar General, GE Commercial Finance, Shaw Industries, SEI Investments, and Coca-Cola Enterprises. Beyond the business world we see alumni who have won Nobel prizes, like Kerry Mullis; who have served in the U.S. Senate, like Sam...
Nunn; who have walked on the moon, like John Young; and who are even well-known entertainers, like John Salley, Jeff Foxworthy, and Phil Gordon – who is not only a successful business man but also holds a world poker title and is seen on TV advising others on when to hold ‘em and when to fold ‘em.

You, today’s graduates, are the recipients of that same education. You are the inheritors of those same traditions – including the ability to think clearly on just a few hours of sleep a night, an abiding appreciation for chili dogs from the Varsity, cheering on the Yellow Jacket athletic teams, pulling all-nighters during “dead week,” and being gently awakened by the sweet sound of the Whistle or a little jack-hammering on the latest construction project.

As we celebrate the completion of this phase of your life today, we hope and believe that the knowledge and skills you carry with you from our campus will continue to shape and influence your lives in ways you cannot yet even imagine. And we look forward to seeing you step to the fore to provide the technological and ethical leadership our nation and world will need in the days ahead.

We hope and believe you have learned to rise to a challenge… to be creative in solving problems… to adapt to change, and even to anticipate and provoke it. These abilities will stand you in good stead your whole life long. Most importantly, we hope and believe that here at Georgia Tech you have learned that the goal is not merely to “have more,” but also to “be more.” As Lily Tomlin once noted, even if you win the rat race, you’ll still be a rat. And we hope and believe that you set forth from this day, prepared not only to live in the world, but also to help make it a better place.

Today, as we celebrate the successful conclusion of a chapter of your lifelong education, it is important to acknowledge that you have not done it alone. With you every step of the way – at least in spirit – were your parents and for some of you, your spouses, who made
all the difference in your success. The faculty and staff of Georgia Tech and our graduates would like to thank you for your support. Would our parents and spouses please stand so that we may recognize you.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

Additional support for our graduates came from our outstanding Georgia Tech faculty. I know that when you got your tests back you did not always feel loved by the faculty, but today they are here to testify that you earned their respect. So now is the time for all of our graduates to say thanks to all the help they received from the faculty and I would like to ask the faculty present today to rise and be recognized.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

Of course, those who deserve the most recognition on this momentous day are the graduates, who entered this room a few minutes ago as students and who will leave as Georgia Tech alumni. Would all of you please stand so that we may recognize you and your achievement?

(LEAD APPLAUSE)

The highest honor that Georgia Tech can bestow upon any member of its faculty is the Distinguished Professor Award, which is presented each spring to a professor whose teaching, research, and mentoring of students have been especially outstanding. It is a Georgia Tech tradition that the faculty member who has been chosen as Distinguished Professor has the honor of delivering the summer commencement address. This year, the recipient of that high honor is Dr. Mostafa El-Sayed.

Dr. El-Sayed completed his undergraduate work in his home country of Egypt, and then earned his Ph.D. at Florida State University. He was on the faculty at Harvard, Yale, CalTech, and UCLA before he came to Georgia Tech in 1994. What attracted him here to Tech after serving at so many prestigious universities, was our openness and
encouragement to engage in a wide array of genuinely interdisciplinary research. And it did not take long for Georgia Tech to feel the impact of his leadership. He came to us as the Julius Brown Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, which is one of Georgia Tech’s oldest endowed chairs. And he came specifically to establish the Laser Dynamics Lab, of which he is the director. That, he says, is when the future began.

The Laser Dynamics Lab allowed Dr. El-Sayed to work with faculty and students from a wide variety of disciplines to study and energize chemicals and materials. Energy is an important dynamic in chemical reactions, and because lasers are a very focused energy source, they can help scientists understand and transform materials at the nano-level.

Lasers opened the door for Mostafa El-Sayed to enter the world of nanoscience, and he stepped through that door with great enthusiasm. His work ranges from exploring new materials for the next generation of computers to pioneering new ways to detect and potentially treat cancer. He is collaborating with his son, a professor at the University of California, San Francisco, in ground-breaking research using nanorods made of gold that bond with cancer cells. The gold nanorods illuminate the cancer cells so they can be identified with a simple microscope. In the process the cells are weakened, enabling them to be destroyed by low-powered lasers. The goal is a medical technique that identifies cancer cells and paves the way for them to be destroyed without causing damage to surrounding tissue.

Ground-breaking work like this earned Mostafa El-Sayed the 2002 Irving Langmuir Award in Chemical Physics, highest honor of both the American Chemical Society and the American Physical Society. He is also Georgia Tech’s first member of the National Academy of Sciences. And he is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Physical Society. His list of honors, awards, and publications is too long to recount here.
In addition to conducting innovative research, Dr. El-Sayed has also helped us make our undergraduate educational experience more dynamic. You see, he does something that faculty of high stature at major research universities seldom do – he teaches undergraduate students. What’s more, every year he teaches at least one semester of freshman chemistry. He says he enjoys the feeling of giving something of himself to students through teaching. And he is delighted when freshmen embrace the discipline of chemistry under his tutelage, and begin to understand and speak its language. He also values the honesty of youth and the instant feedback that teaching provides.

For their part, his students will tell you that it is an amazing experience to take a freshman class from a renowned scientist – to witness the passion and enthusiasm he has for his field and to feel like their class is just as important to him as his research.

Dr. El-Sayed has passed the age when most people retire to play golf or sit in a rocking chair on the porch sipping iced tea. But he still keeps a vigorous work and teaching schedule, and his enthusiasm and devotion to his students and his research continue to be an inspiration to his younger colleagues, including me.

(DR. EL-SAYED’S REMARKS)

Thank you, Dr. El-Sayed. As a token of our appreciation for taking time to speak today, I would like to present you with a gift for the occasion.

(PRESENT GIFT)

(Dr. Clough)

We come now to the time that all of you have been waiting for – the conferring of your degrees. At this time, Dr. Anderson Smith, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, will introduce the academic deans who will then present the candidates for the bachelor’s degree.
Assistant Dean Michael McCracken will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Computing.

Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Computing please rise and remain standing. (Pause)

Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

Associate Dean Peter McGuire will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the Ivan Allen College.

Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the Ivan Allen College please rise and remain standing. (Pause)

Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

Interim Dean Douglas C. Allen will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Architecture.
(Dr. Allen) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Architecture please rise and remain standing.

(Pause)

(Dr. Allen) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Smith) Senior Associate Dean Sridhar Narasimhan will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Management.

(Dr. Narasimhan) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Management please rise and remain standing.

(Pause)

(Dr. Narasimhan) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.

(Dr. Smith) Dean Paul Houston will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Sciences.

(Dr. Houston) Candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Sciences please rise and remain standing.

(Pause)

(Dr. Houston) Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for this degree.
Associate Dean Raymond P. Vito will introduce the undergraduate candidates for degrees in the College of Engineering.

Candidates for the bachelor's degree and Bachelor of Science degree in the College of Engineering please rise and remain standing. (Pause)

Mr. President, I have the honor to introduce to you those candidates for the bachelor's degree and the Bachelor of Science degree who have completed the requirements for those respective degrees.

Upon the recommendation of the faculty of the Georgia Institute of Technology and by authority of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, I confer upon each of you the bachelor's degree, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities hereunto appertaining.

Please be seated. We will now award the degrees. Will the faculty marshals please bring the candidates forward.

(College of Computing candidates will come forward, then IAC, Architecture, Management, College of Sciences and College of Engineering. Dean presents diplomas and Dr. Clough shakes hands. Announcer will pause between colleges to allow Deans time to come forward.)

Now, please join me in congratulating these fine new graduates of Georgia Tech.

(LEAD APPLAUSE)
Dr. Clough:

You now are in possession of the proof that you have successfully completed the learning opportunity presented to you at Georgia Tech. As you enter the next stage of your life, it is useful to think about how learning continues from here. The famous basketball coach and New York wise-guy Al McGuire said, “I think everyone should go to college and get a degree and then spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cab driver. Then they would really be educated.” While few of you will earn advanced degrees in bartending or cab-driving, his advice is sound. Learn from life and by listening carefully to others.

Another perspective comes from the famous behavioral scientist, B. F. Skinner, who remarked “Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.” If we have done our job while you were here, you will do well when your present store of knowledge becomes obsolete, because we have educated you for life and lifelong learning.

Of course it is a bit depressing to think that you will forget a lot of what you have learned during your time on campus. Father Guido Sarducci, a learned man of the cloth from Saturday Night Live, pointed out that most people only remember 5 percent of what they have learned in college. He then offered to teach students the 5 percent they would remember for half of the cost of college tuition.

Now I do believe that you will remember more than 5 percent of what you learned here at Tech. But as your career options change and you take on new, higher responsibilities, I hope you will come back to Tech and take advantage of our life-long professional education programs.

Leaving today with your degree means that you have become a Georgia Tech alum. You join more than 120,000 living alumni around the world, including some who are here today, and I would like to ask all Georgia Tech alumni to stand at this time and be recognized.
(LEAD APPLAUSE)

To induct our graduates into this special group, I would like to present Mr. C. Meade Sutterfield, class of 1972. He is president and CEO of SSPCS Corporation, a holding company that he co-founded after he sold the first company he founded to Nextel Communications. As this year’s chair of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association, Mr. Sutterfield will welcome the members of this graduating class into the fellowship of Tech alumni.

(Mr. Sutterfield)  Induction of graduates into the Alumni Association.

(Dr. Clough)

We invite all of you to join us immediately after this ceremony for a special reception in honor of today’s graduates and their families and friends. The reception will be held in the Bill Moore Tennis Center, directly across Fowler Street.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Georgia Tech Music Department for their participation in our program this morning. Thanks also to Dr. Johnson and Dr. Marianne Mason for calling the graduates’ names. And many thanks to all of my associates for arranging this important event.

At this time, the Georgia Tech Commencement Ensemble will lead us in the alma mater, followed immediately by the faculty recessional. The graduates and the audience are requested to remain standing for the faculty recessional. Then I invite all of you to join in singing the Ramblin’ Wreck, which will accompany the student recessional.

Thank you for your attendance this morning.
At the end of the alma mater, the mace bearer will be the first one off the stage. Dr. Clough will immediately follow then the remainder of the President’s Party, Deans, and Faculty.)